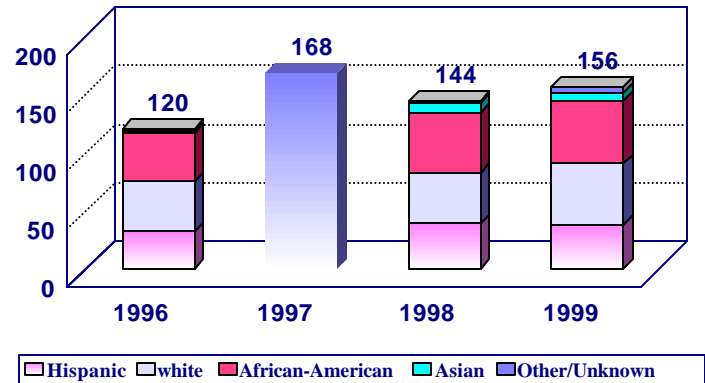


West Service Planning Area Asthma Fact Sheet 2002



- Asthma is a global public health concern with a steadily rising prevalence¹ and a global burden which exceeds 150 million people.² Asthma affects 17 million Americans, costing millions of dollars and requiring frequent medical care³ including an estimated 1.8 million emergency room visits, over 460,000 hospitalizations, and 5,000 deaths each year,¹ most of which are preventable.
- Asthma is a chronic lung disease, characterized by recurrent episodes of coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness.

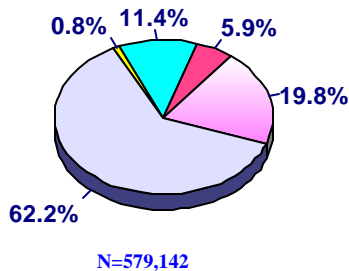
**Primary Asthma Hospitalizations by Race,*
0-14 Age Group
West SPA, 1996-1999**



Data was provided by the Office of Ambulatory Care
*1997 data not available by race.

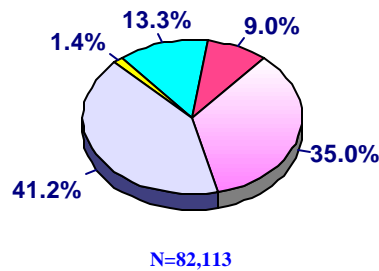
West SPA Population and 0-14 Age Group by Race, 1998

West SPA Population⁸



N=579,142

West SPA 0-14 Age Group



N=82,113

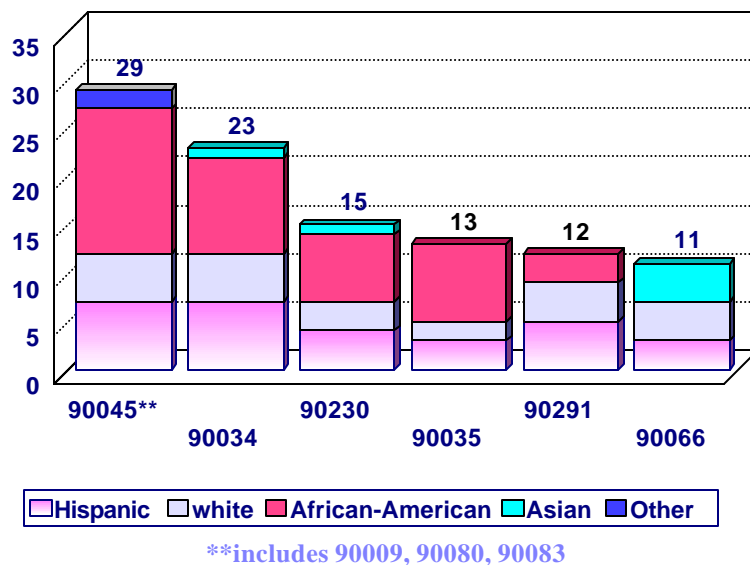
white Hispanic African-American Asian Native American

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

- Asthma can be triggered by a variety of factors including pollens, mold, dust mites, cockroach droppings, animal dander, chemicals in food or air, sinus or viral infections, exercise, reflux disease, medications, anxiety, and any irritant to the lungs, such as tobacco smoke and smog.^{1,3}
- Although the true prevalence of asthma is considered to be higher, an estimated 4.4 million children in the United States are affected by asthma; it is the second most common chronic condition in children.^{4,5}
- Asthma is more common in school-aged children than preschool-aged children or adults and accounts for 10 million missed school days annually.⁶
- African-American and Hispanic children may not receive proper asthma management care regardless of their family income, extent of disease, or health insurance status.⁷
- In Los Angeles County, 173,000 or 6% of children in 1999-2000, suffered from asthma, compared with an estimated 5% or 6,000 cases in the West SPA.⁸ The prevalence of asthma in Los Angeles County was 16% among African-American children and as low as 7%, 6%, and 4% among white, Asian, and Hispanic children respectively.⁸

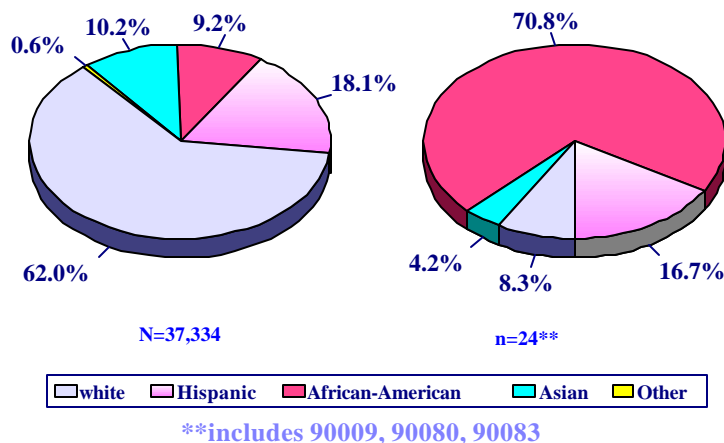
- Asthma hospitalization data analysis indicated numerous “asthma pockets” within West-LA, Mar Vista, Venice, and Westchester communities.
- In the United States and the West SPA, asthma hospitalizations have been disproportionately high among Hispanics and African-Americans. For example, in 1998 in Westchester (90045, 90009, 90080, 90083), where African-Americans comprise 9% of the population, 71% of asthma hospitalizations were among African-Americans. Similarly, in Venice (90291), 8% of the residents are African-American, representing 25% of asthma hospitalizations. This pattern is also repeated in West LA (90034), where 17% are African American, and represent 43% of the hospitalizations.

Primary Asthma Hospitalizations by Race and Zip Code West Service Planning Area, 1999



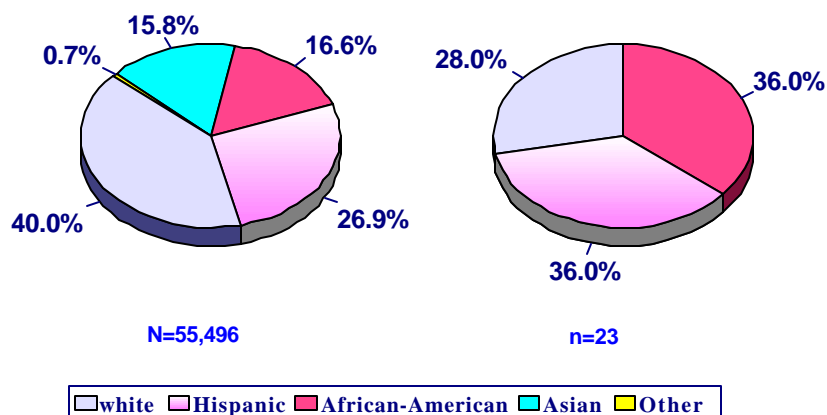
1998 Westchester Population
by Race and Zip Code: 90045**

1998 Asthma Hospitalizations by Race
0-14 Age Group: Westchester-90045**



1998 West Los Angeles Population
by Race and Zip Code: 90034 Only

1998 Asthma Hospitalizations by Race
0-14 Age Group: West LA-90034



- Asthma related hospitalizations among Hispanics were not proportional to the local demographics either. In Culver City (90230), Hispanics comprised 33% of the local population and 86% of asthma hospitalizations in 1998. In Venice (90291), 27% of the population and 50% of the asthma hospitalizations in 1998 were among Hispanics.
- Local planning can enhance asthma management activities in population groups at higher risk for asthma. Current initiatives include collaborative efforts among the West SPA, the Westside Health Coalition Asthma Task Force, American Lung Association, and local school districts. The goal is to help reduce the impact of asthma among the school-aged children and increase asthma awareness and education beyond these “asthma pockets” in all communities.

- <http://aspe.hhs.gov/sp/asthma/overview.htm>
- <http://207.159.65.33/wadsetup/materials/factsheet.doc>
- <http://www.aaaai.org/patients/pubicedmat/tips/asthmatrippersandmgmt.stm>
- <http://health.yahoo.com/health/dc/000990/0.htm>
- <http://hp2010.nhlbi.nih.net/asthmaps/hsa723.html>
- http://hin.nhlbi.nih.gov/naepp_slds/menu.htm
- http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20020110/hl/minorities_1.html
- <http://lapublichealth.org/ha/reports/habriefs/asthma/astham.htm>
- SPA 5-DataBook, West: United Way of Greater Los Angeles, January 1999.